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ABSTRACT

The Missouri Children's Services Commission was created in 1983 to address children's needs through coordinated efforts. The commission has published this document with three purposes: (1) to present an outcome-oriented vision for Missouri's young people; (2) to summarize the broad range of conditions that affect the passage from childhood to maturity; and (3) to issue a call to action that connects education and health to family values. The first section of the document profiles Missouri's children according to the numbers of children since 1910; children's age group and race; the birth rate; and family living arrangements. The bulk of the document consists of chapters that discuss the topics of: (1) poverty, including public assistance and youth unemployment; (2) substance abuse, including the process of educating children about the effects of drug use; (3) child welfare, including child abuse and foster care; (4) children's health care, including infant mortality and medicaid; (5) mental health, including treatment of children with emotional disturbances and developmental disabilities; (6) education, including literacy and the problem of dropping out of school; (7) juvenile justice, including the use of community-based services; (8) child safety, including home and car accidents; and (9) child care, including facility licensing issues. The final section of the document issues a call to action to help Missouri's children. Sixteen objectives are listed for improving health care, parent-school partnerships, and providing a safe environment. (BC)

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A Report on the Status of Missouri Children

PS 020059



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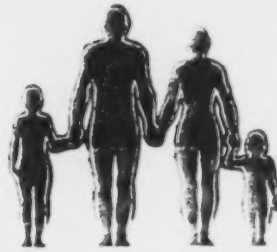
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Children's Services Commission 1991

Errata

- Page 13 The last statement should read: Child care and health services are available to FUTURES participants as they make the transition from welfare to work.
- Page 28 The last statement should read: During fiscal year 1990, the foster care population increased 14%. It is expected to continue its increase through fiscal year 1992 at an estimated rate of 10.2%.
- Page 44 The first statement refers to suicide among 5 to 14-year olds, while the chart reports suicides for 10 to 14-year olds. Since there were no suicides for children under age 10 in Missouri from 1980 to 1989, the first statement should also refer to 10 to 14-year-olds.
- Page 57 The second citation is incomplete, and should read as follows: Missouri State Board of Education, *Missourians Prepared-Success for Every Student*, 1990.
- Page 62 The handwritten statement at the bottom of the page mistakenly refers to children under age 5 being committed to the Division of Youth Services for child abuse and neglect referrals. The majority of these children were in pre-hearing placements, often in foster homes, not in DYS custody.
- Page 66 The first statement mentions deaths due to homicide and legal intervention. Legal intervention refers to being shot by a police officer in the line of duty, and accounts for a very small proportion of the deaths in this age group.
- Page 71 The second statement mentions drivers aged 15 to 19. While 15-year-olds may not legally drive in Missouri, they are indeed responsible for a number of accidents involving young drivers.



2000 and Beyond

A Status Report on Missouri's Children

January 29, 1991

Missouri Children's Services Commission

Children's Services Commission Members

Gary J. Stangler, Chair
Director, Department of Social Services

The Honorable Kaye H. Steinmetz, Vice-Chair
House of Representatives

Keith Schafer, Ed. D., Financial Secretary
Director, Department of Mental Health

Richard C. Rice, Secretary/Recorder
Director, Department of Public Safety

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Director, Department of Health

Robert E. Bartman, Ed. D.
Commissioner, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

The Honorable John F. Bass
State Senate

The Honorable Channing D. Blaeuer
Judge, 14th Circuit

The Honorable Marion Cairns
House of Representatives

The Honorable David Doctorian
State Senate

The Honorable Gene Lang
House of Representatives

The Honorable Henry A. Panethiere
State Senate

The Honorable Sue Shear
House of Representatives

The Honorable Dennis Smith
State Senate

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January 29, 1991

To All Missouri Citizens:

Ten years ago, former governor Christopher S. Bond convened the first Governor's Conference on Children and Youth. Those attending the conference glimpsed the start or escalation of troubling trends for children, some now manifest as chronic conditions.

Recognizing the need for focused attention, Representative Kaye Steinmetz sponsored legislation that created the Missouri Children's Services Commission in 1983. Passage of the law signaled a commitment by all three branches of government - the executive, the legislature and the judiciary - to address children's needs through coordinated efforts. In 1987, Representative Steinmetz strengthened that law with new provisions requiring the Commission to publish a *Year 2000 Plan*.

The Commission now presents *2000 and Beyond: A Status Report on Missouri's Children*. This document has three purposes:

- to present a vision for Missouri's young people that is outcome-oriented, focusing not only on the child but on the adult he or she will become;
- to summarize the broad range of conditions - economic well-being, mental and physical health, safety, educational achievement and encounters with the juvenile justice system - that affect passage from childhood to maturity; and
- to issue a strong, simple call to action, one that connects quality education and good health to strong family values.

As you read this volume, we hope you are moved to speak and act, individually and with others, in your daily lives and in your communities. Your help is needed now.

Children's Services Commission

A Vision for Children

A vision for children... What we conjure is the child, usually young, at play, unthreatened. Perhaps this is a reflection of our own past or what we want to believe we experienced.

This is soothing but shortsighted and incomplete. There is a constellation of events and people ringing the child. There is history and, more importantly, a future. We must turn our eyes to the horizon.

In our vision, the family assures the child's safe passage to the future. Parents value themselves. They teach beliefs and habits that lead their children to high aspirations and personal peace.

Today's children will become parents, workers, teachers, public officials and community leaders. They must be compassionate, skilled, wise, fair and stable. They are the resource of the future, and we are their stewards.



2000 and Beyond: A Status Report on Missouri's Children



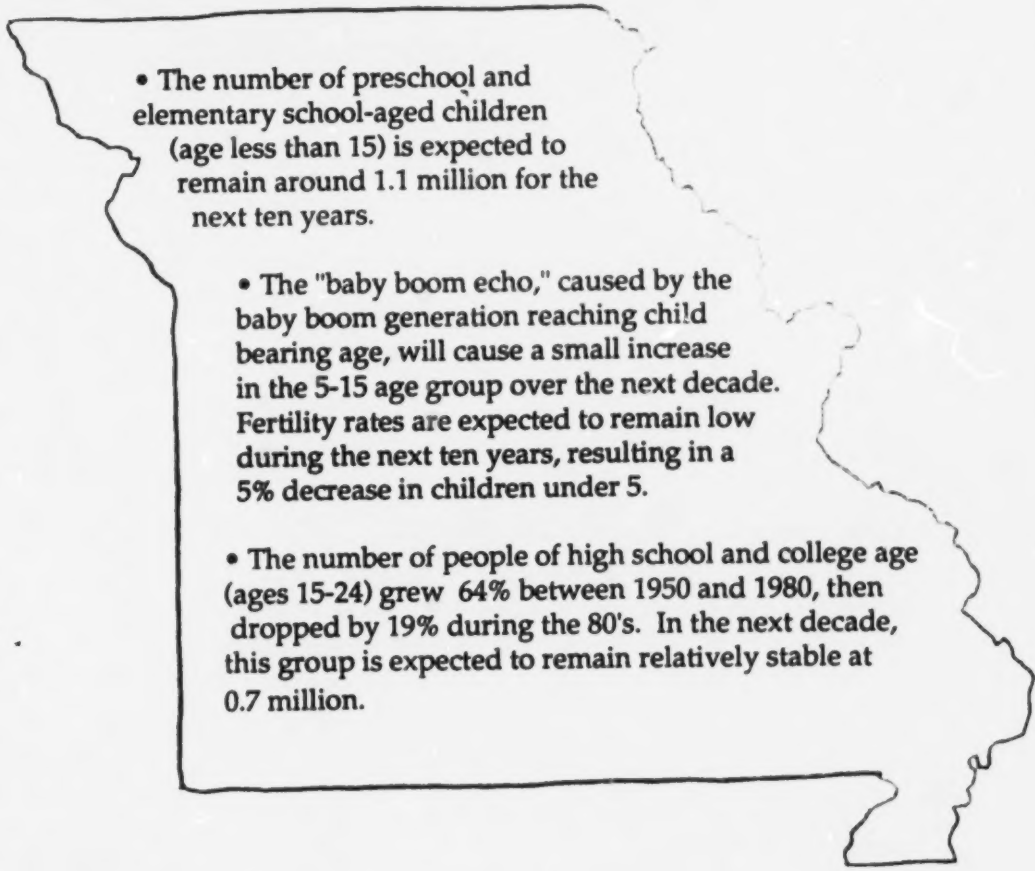
Profiles

Who are Missouri's children,
and who will they be?

Profiles

Missouri's population is expected to grow by 4% during the 1990s. The proportion of children will decrease, while middle-aged and elderly adults will make up a larger part of the population.

There are more than 1.5 million children in Missouri. Their numbers have declined 5% in the past 10 years.



- The number of preschool and elementary school-aged children (age less than 15) is expected to remain around 1.1 million for the next ten years.

- The "baby boom echo," caused by the baby boom generation reaching child bearing age, will cause a small increase in the 5-15 age group over the next decade. Fertility rates are expected to remain low during the next ten years, resulting in a 5% decrease in children under 5.

- The number of people of high school and college age (ages 15-24) grew 64% between 1950 and 1980, then dropped by 19% during the 80's. In the next decade, this group is expected to remain relatively stable at 0.7 million.

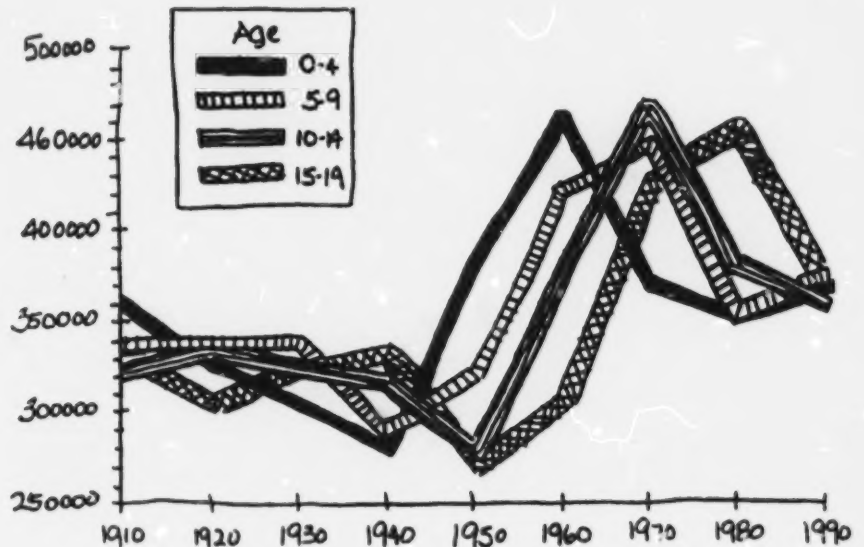
Sources:

1990. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Missouri Demographic and Economic Profile: 1987-2000. Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

Profiles

Missouri's children, 1910-1990



In 1990,
children are
almost
equally
divided
among age
classes.

Year	Percent of Total Population			
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19
1910	10.9	10.3	9.8	10.1
1920	9.6	9.9	9.8	9.0
1930	8.4	9.3	9.0	9.0
1940	7.4	7.7	8.4	8.9
1950	9.7	8.1	7.1	6.9
1960	10.8	9.8	8.7	7.1
1970	7.9	9.6	10.1	9.2
1980	7.2	7.2	7.8	9.4
1990	7.2	7.3	7.0	7.2

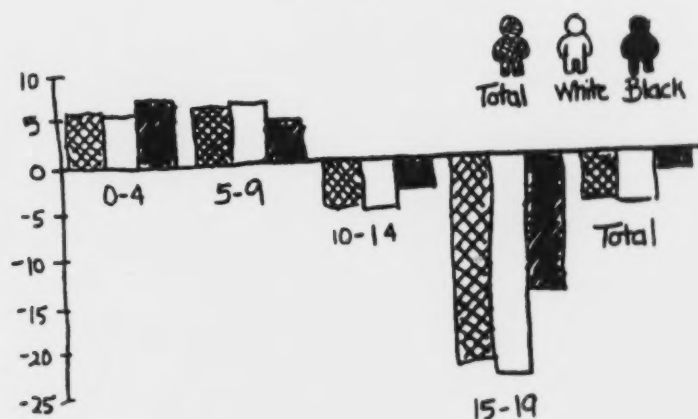
Sources:

1990. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

1980. Census of the Population. U.S. Department of Commerce,
Bureau of the Census.

Profiles

Percent change in population by age class and race
1980-1990



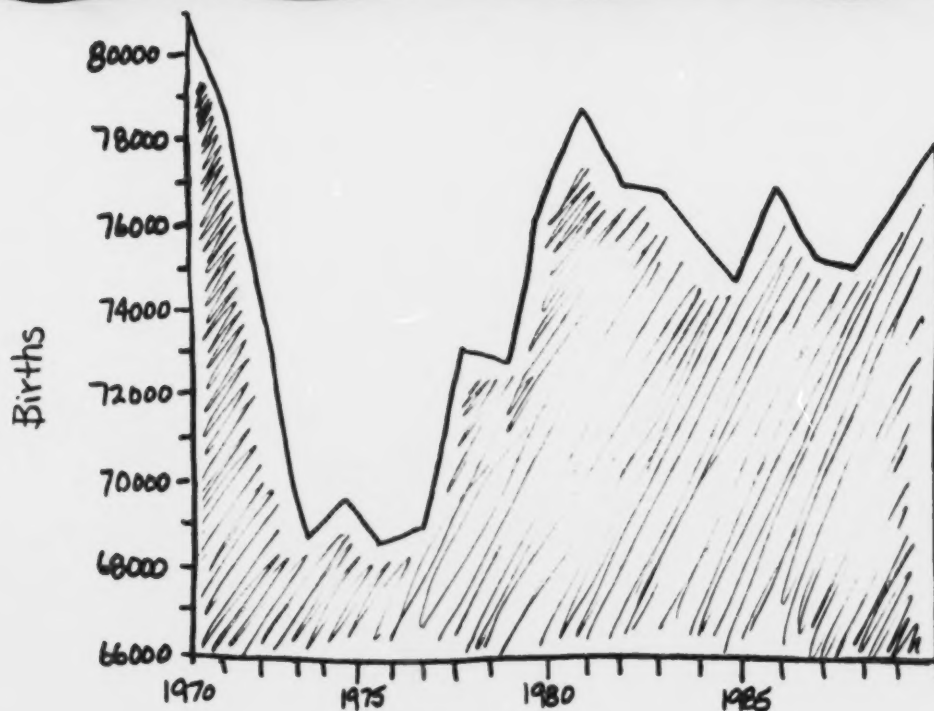
Between 1980 and 1990, there was an overall decline in the population of Missouri's children. The most marked decline was in the 15-19 year old age group, while there was a modest increase in the number of children aged 0-9. Population changes were similar for black and white children.

percent change			1980	1990
Total	0-4	6.0	354144	375502
	5-9	6.1	355426	377251
	10-14	-5.1	382168	362642
	15-19	-22.5	461336	357455
	Total	-5.2	1553074	1472850
White	0-4	5.8	300678	318190
	5-9	6.5	300911	320338
	10-14	-5.6	326014	307989
	15-19	-23.8	397604	303028
	Total	-5.7	1325207	1249545
Black	0-4	7.2	47648	51088
	5-9	4.4	48967	51116
	10-14	-3.7	51493	49596
	15-19	-14.7	58015	49464
	Total	-2.4	206123	201264

Sources:
1990. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.
1980. Census of the Population. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Profiles

In 1989, 77,755 babies were born in Missouri.
This is slightly less than the number of babies born in 1980.



A birth rate of 1.9 births
per woman is expected to hold
through the 1990's.
This rate is near
the historic low of 1.8.

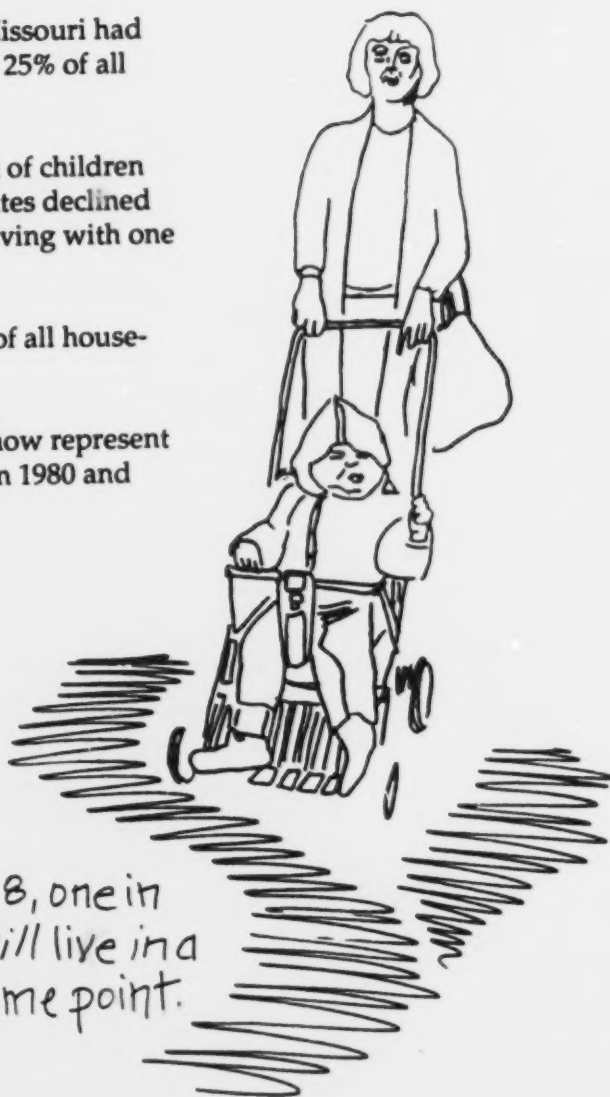
Sources:

1989. Missouri Vital Statistics. Missouri Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics.
Missouri Demographic and Economic Profile: 1987-2000. Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

Profiles

State of the family...

- In 1980, 17.6% of all children born in Missouri had mothers who were not married. In 1988, 25% of all births in Missouri were non-marital.
- Between 1970 and 1989, the proportion of children living with two parents in the United States declined from 85% to 73%, while the proportion living with one parent doubled from 12% to 24%.
- Nationwide, families account for 71% of all households, down from 74% in 1980.
- In the United States, married couples now represent 56% of all households, down from 61% in 1980 and 71% in 1970.



By the time they reach 18, one in three Missouri children will live in a single parent family at some point.

Profiles

- Both the marriage rate and the divorce rate have been declining since 1980. The marriage rate is declining faster, so a larger proportion of marriages are ending in divorce.

- Of the 380,490 children born in Missouri from 1985-1989, 113,040 have been affected by divorce.

Single parents are more likely to be poor, less educated, and unemployed.



Sources:

1990. *Missouri Population and Census Newsletter*. Missouri State Census Data Center, Missouri State Library. NS Vol. V No. 3, Summer 1990.

1990. *Youth Profile '90*. Missouri Youth Initiative.

1989. *Missouri Vital Statistics*. Missouri Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics.

Missouri Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics.

1991. Thomas Exeter. *Average household size up for the first time in seven years*. *American Demographics*, January, 1991.



2000 and Beyond: A Status Report on Missouri's Children



Poverty

When kids grow up poor,
it affects generations to come.

Poverty

Child Poverty:

Since the late sixties, child poverty has increased more than poverty for other age groups. The breakdown of the two-parent family is the major cause.

- In the United States, 14% of all persons live in poverty, while almost 20% of all children are poor.

- In 1979, 15% of Missouri's children were poor. Almost half of these children were in mother-only families.

- A recent study estimates an increase – 18% of Missouri's children were poor in 1986. Nearly 60% of these children were in mother-only families.

- The number of children in poverty is closely tied to the number of children in one-parent (usually mother-only) families, a decline in real earnings, and a declining value of government transfers to families with children.

- Reducing child poverty will require reducing adolescent pregnancy, increasing child support collections, and providing job training and opportunities for low-income parents.



Mother-only families
tend to be the poorest families
and remain poor the longest.

Sources:

Institute of Applied Research. 1988. *Children in Poverty, Present and Future: State Options for Reducing Child Poverty*.
L. Anthony Loman and Gary L. Siegel.
Children's Defense Fund. 1990. *Children 1990: A Report Card, Briefing Book, and Action Primer*.

Poverty

Public Assistance

Most of Missouri's needs are children.

- Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) is a federal-state program designed to meet the needs of poor children and their immediate families.

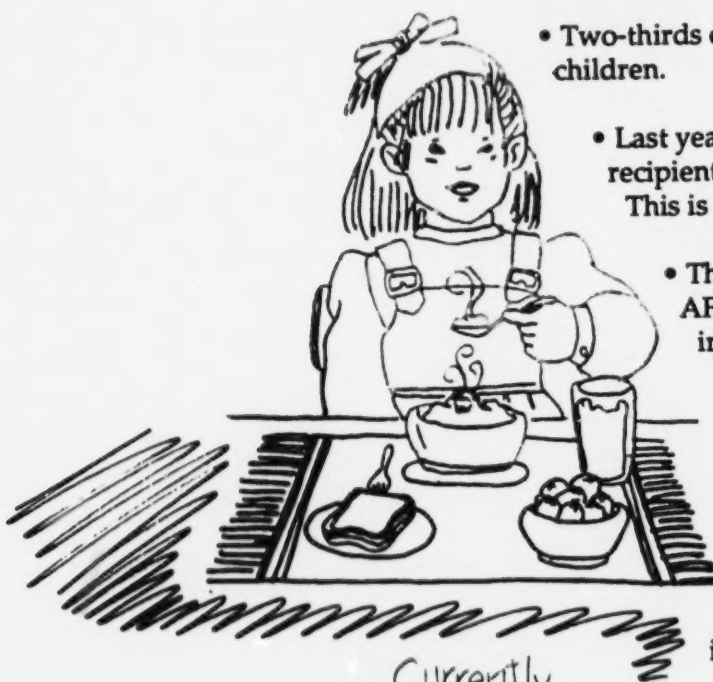
- Two-thirds of the people who receive AFDC are children.

- Last year, there were more than 137,000 AFDC recipients each month, up from 120,000 in 1983. This is a 15% increase.

- The average number of children receiving AFDC each month has been steadily increasing since 1983.

- Between 1988 and 1990, almost half of the state's food stamp recipients were children.

- The number of children receiving food stamps each month has risen by 12% in two years, from 173,600 in 1988 to 194,900 in 1990.



Currently,
9% of all children
in Missouri
receive AFDC, and 13% of all children
in Missouri
receive food stamps.

Sources:

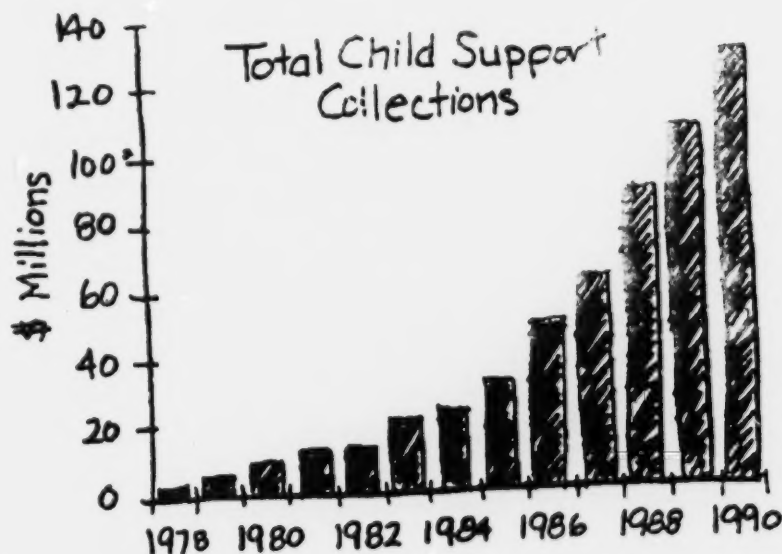
1990. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.
Missouri Department of Social Services, Research and Evaluation.
Annual Report. Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Family
Services. Fiscal Years 1981-1990.

Poverty

Child Support Enforcement:

Helping parents meet the financial demands of raising their children.

- Most single parents (usually women) do not receive child support payments.
- Those who do receive child support usually receive less than the full amount.
- Between 1985 and 1987, 36% of mother-only families in Missouri received at least some child support. Among the poor, this rate was only 21%.
- The Division of Child Support Enforcement collected \$2 million for Missouri cases in fiscal 1978, and almost \$130 million in fiscal 1990, including \$11.5 million from parents who do not live in Missouri.
- As of June 30, 1990, there were about 183,700 active child support cases. Payments were being made in 14% of the AFDC cases and 34% of the non-AFDC cases.



Sources:

1988. Institute of Applied Research. *Children in Poverty, Present and Future: State Options for Reducing Child Poverty.*

L. Anthony Loman and Gary L. Siegel.

Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Child Support Enforcement.

Poverty

Active Reform
How? through Missouri's FUTURES program.



- Helping families become self-sufficient will help lift children out of poverty.

- The FUTURES program helps individuals receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children:

- Learnfare – the service of first priority is education because it is the only long-term answer for self-sufficiency;
- skill training and job training; and
- job search programs



- Teenagers who dropped out of school to have children can enroll in FUTURES and finish high school, work toward a GED, or obtain a job skill.

- Child care is available to FUTURES participants as they make the transition from welfare to work.



Source:
Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.

Poverty

Homelessness:

There's no place like home... if you have one.

- During the course of a year, over 10,000 children can be expected to spend at least one night in a shelter.

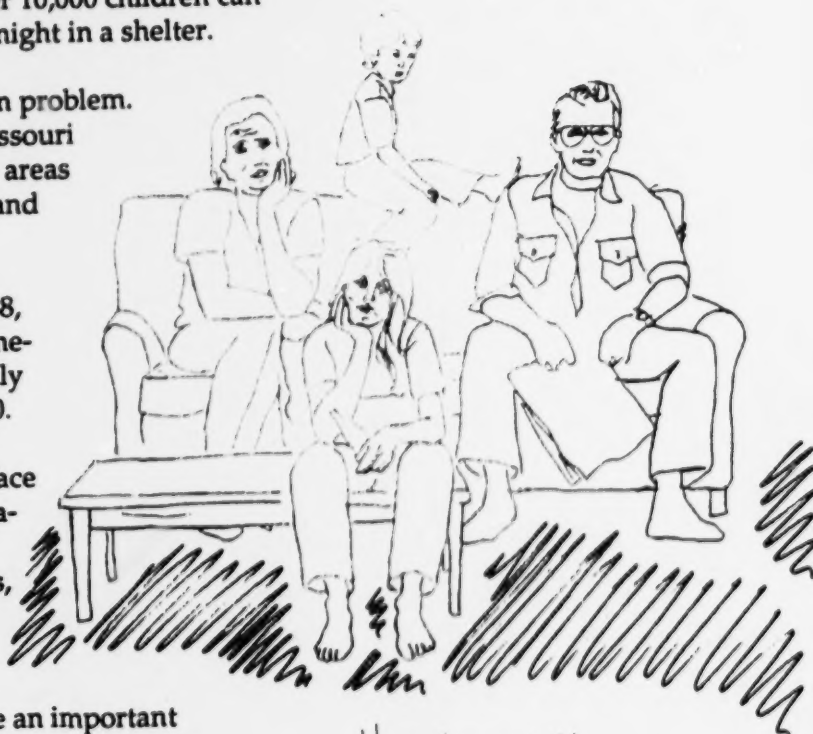
- Homelessness isn't just an urban problem. In 1990, 28% of the children in Missouri homeless shelters were located in areas outside of St. Louis, Kansas City and Springfield.

- On one night in November, 1988, 600 children were counted in homeless shelters. This has risen steadily to 888 children in November 1990.

- Homeless children and youth face major barriers in getting an education, including school policies related to residence requirements, transfer of school records and pupil transportation.

- Missouri schools could provide an important "anchor" for homeless children, offering a secure, caring environment; nutrition; and a good education.

- Shelter staff members should be trained to provide educational and emotional support to homeless children.



Homeless children
don't attend school
regularly, are often in
poor health and have
low self-esteem.

Sources:

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Poverty

Youth Unemployment

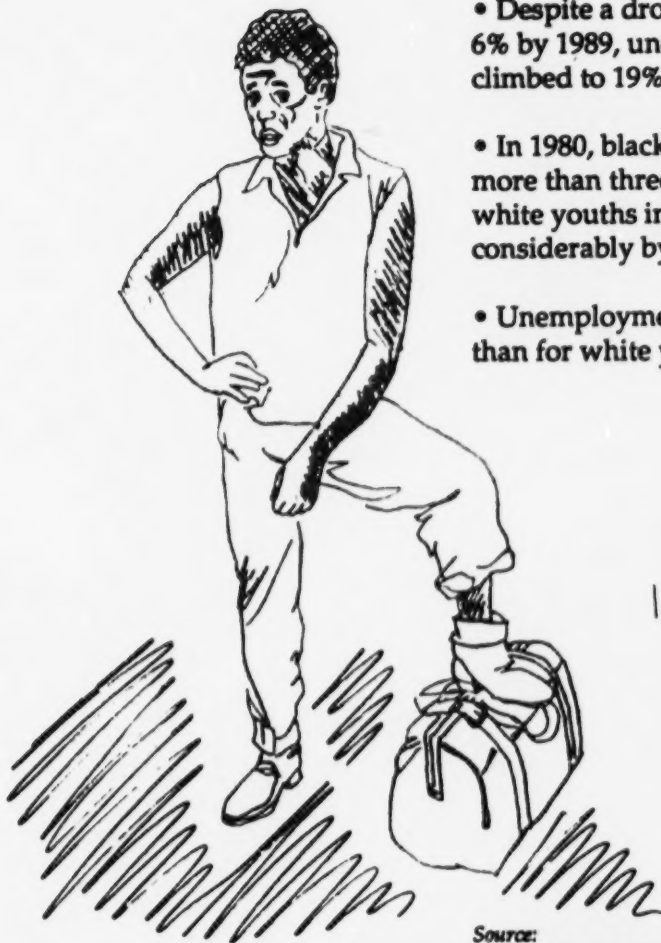
Teen unemployment is overall among our state's youth with little improvement in the years.

- In 1980, 7% of all Missourians were unemployed. At the same time, 16% of all youths aged 16-19, and 41% of black youths were unemployed.

- Despite a drop in the overall unemployment rate to 6% by 1989, unemployment among 16-19 year olds climbed to 19%.

- In 1980, black youths from 16-19 years of age were more than three times as likely to be unemployed than white youths in the same age group. The gap narrowed considerably by 1990.

- Unemployment among black youths is still higher than for white youths – 32% compared to 18%.



1989 Unemployment Rate

All persons	6%
Youth 16-19	19%
White youth	18%
Black youth	32%

Source:

Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Division of Employment Security.

Note: Data for black teens were estimated by subtracting data for white teens from data for total teens.



~~~~~ Substance Abuse

Alcohol and other drugs:
the great wasteland.

Substance Abuse

Alcohol and drug use:

It's not easy being a kid. Using drugs and alcohol only makes it tougher.

- Kids who use drugs or alcohol are more likely to get poor grades and even drop out of school. They are less likely to participate in school activities.

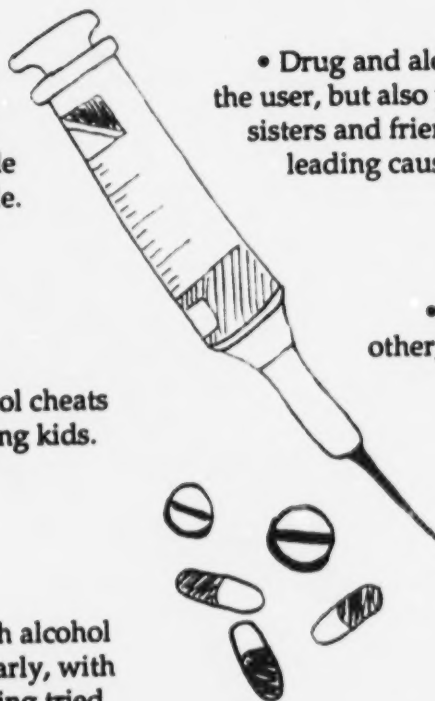
- Seventeen percent of high school seniors have been drunk by eighth grade; 37% by ninth grade and 71% by twelfth grade.

- Using drugs and alcohol cheats kids out of the fun of being kids.

- Experimenting with alcohol and tobacco begins early, with one in five boys having tried them by age 9. Other drugs are tried infrequently until age 12.

- Drug and alcohol use not only affects the user, but also parents and brothers and sisters and friends. Substance abuse is a leading cause of family breakdown.

- Alcohol is a gateway to other, increasingly harmful drugs.



*Because
it takes
a village
to raise
a child.*

Substance Abuse

*Mothers and their babies:
Some kids are born addicted to drugs.*

- Crack cocaine is the primary drug used by expectant mothers who have an addiction.

- About one-third of babies admitted to intensive care at one Missouri hospital during the past year tested positive for cocaine.

- At another Missouri hospital, 14% of all women seeking obstetric care tested positive for cocaine.

- Characteristics of fetal cocaine addiction:

- babies are likely to be born premature and may weigh as little as two pounds;
- 40 times greater risk for motor development dysfunctions;
- most have difficulty crawling, pulling themselves up and later walking; and
- exposed children tend to overcome the size and weight deficiencies they have at birth, but brain growth never catches up.



Approximately
11% of all
newborns nationally
are exposed to drugs
before birth.
This represents
8,579
Missouri babies.

- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is the third leading cause of mental retardation, and the only truly preventable cause.

- An estimated 172 Missouri children were born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome during a recent 12-month period.

- Children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome may have smaller brains, mental retardation, learning disabilities, hyperactivity, and poor coordination.

Sources:

Missouri Department of Health.

Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Substance Abuse

Education

Our best hope for preventing the next generation

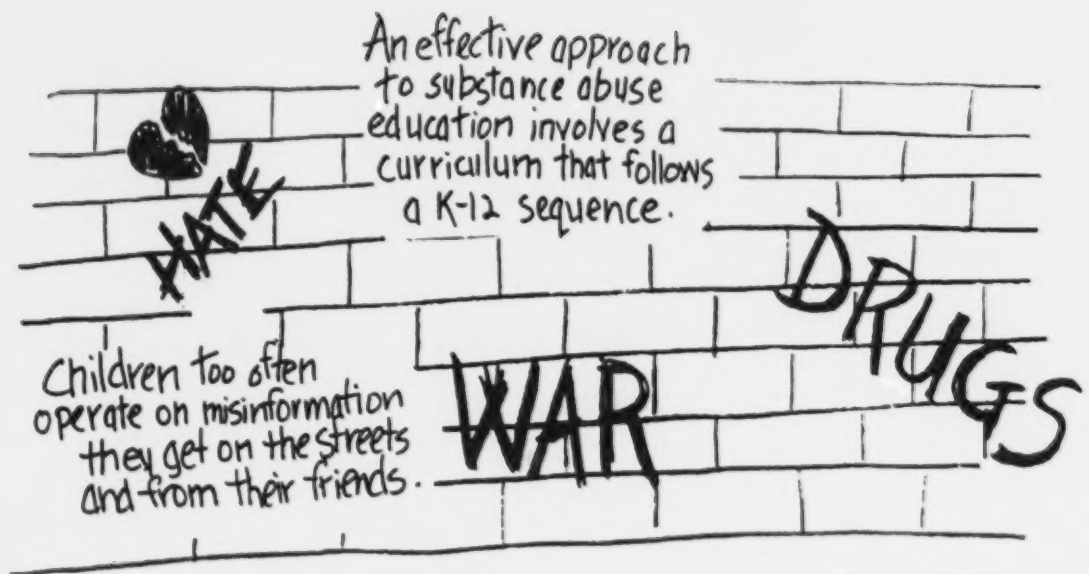
- Changing society's attitude must be our top priority – drug use is not a social norm.
- Communities need to set the right examples for their children. Community-wide programs and projects can restore fundamental values and create the environment for drug-free lifestyles.
- Children need accurate information about critical issues that will affect their lives. Speeches by former drug users, and one-time assembly programs are ineffective and counterproductive in educating children about drugs.
- Peer training programs offer an alternative to the peer pressures facing youngsters.



MO
SAYS
NO
TO ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE

Substance Abuse

- Of Missouri's 543 public school districts, 500 are expected to participate in the federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program in 1990-91. These districts received nearly \$7 million to deal with the problem of substance abuse by students.
- Comprehensive health education is needed to promote physical and mental health and guide students in choosing healthy habits and lifestyles.



Source:
Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Substance Abuse

Children of substance abusers:

*Alcohol and drug abuse not only destroys individuals,
it also destroys families.*

- Children who live with substance abusers quickly learn three rules: don't talk; don't feel; don't trust.

- Four out of five of the children referred to school student assistance programs are children of alcoholics.



- Children of substance abusers are forced to accept roles within the family that are not appropriate for them, causing problems that carry into adulthood.

If my mother or father is an alcoholic, I am four times more likely to follow in their footsteps. If both my parents are alcoholics, the likelihood that I will be an abuser increases to 40%.

Substance Abuse

Tobacco Use:

Smoking among high schoolers declined in the 1980s.

- The percentage of high school senior boys who smoke cigarettes has dropped 29% in the past decade.
- The percentage of high school girls who smoke has dropped 22.5% in the past decade.



- More than 70% of high school seniors reported that they had used cigarettes. Among boys, more than 70% also reported using smokeless tobacco.
- First use of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco begins as early as age five and peaks between ages 10-12.
- Currently in Missouri, it is legal for a 5-year old to buy tobacco products.

The earlier a person starts smoking, the more likely he or she will become a lifetime smoker.

Sources:
Missouri Department of Health.
Missouri Department of Mental Health.
Jefferson City News Tribune. December 28, 1990.



Child Welfare

Every child needs to grow up
in the loving security of a family.

Child Welfare

Fatal Child Abuse

Need getting the chance to grow up.

- If fatal child abuse goes undetected, other children in the home and community are at risk.

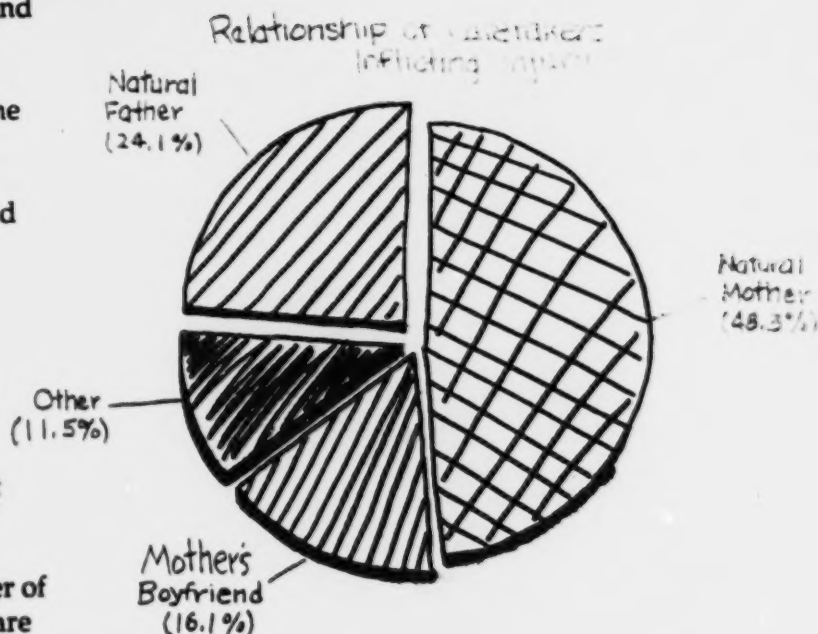
- Between 1983 and 1989, the Division of Family Services identified 167 children between the ages of birth and 17 who died from abuse or neglect.

- From 1982 to 1989, an average of 26 children each year died as a result of abuse or neglect. But how many other deaths were not reported or even detected?

- By far, the greatest number of victims of fatal child abuse are infants.

- Education can help parents have realistic expectations of their children.

- A uniform investigation procedure is needed to detect fatal child abuse and protect other children in the home and community.



* N=82 with 53 victims

Half of the victims of fatal child abuse in 1989 and 1990 had not yet reached their first birthday.

Sources:

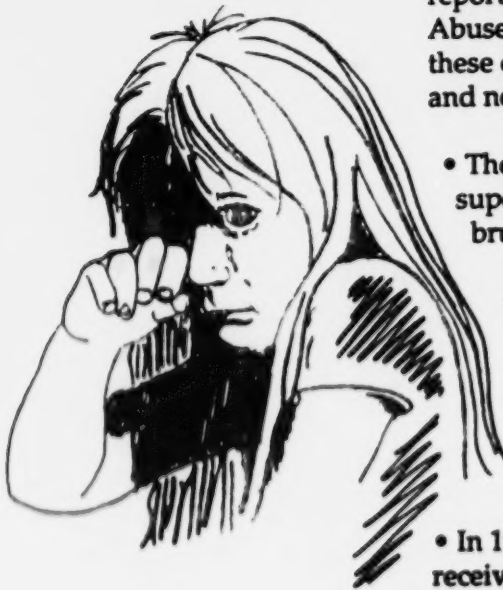
Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
Bernard Ewigman and Colleen Kivlahan. Preliminary research findings.

33

Child Welfare

Child Abuse and Neglect

Children being hurt by those who should protect them.



The most frequent abusers are a child's natural parents.

- Currently, approximately 70,000 children are reported as victims of abuse or neglect each year. Abuse or neglect is substantiated for about 23% of these children. An additional 8% are at risk of abuse and neglect and require services.
- The most common types of abuse found are lack of supervision, unsanitary living conditions, and bruises or welts.
- The number of substantiated victims of sexual abuse has increased from 609 in 1980 to 2,257 in 1989.
- Of the 15,887 victims in 1989, almost 3,000 entered alternative care during the same year.
- In 1980, the Missouri Division of Family Services received nearly 30,000 reports of abuse and neglect. From 1985-1989, an average of 42,000 hotline reports were called in each year.
- Increased publicity of child abuse has made reporting more acceptable to many people - in 1989, over half the reports were made by people who were not mandated by law to do so.

Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline
1-800-392-3738

Source:

Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.

Child Welfare

Foster Care

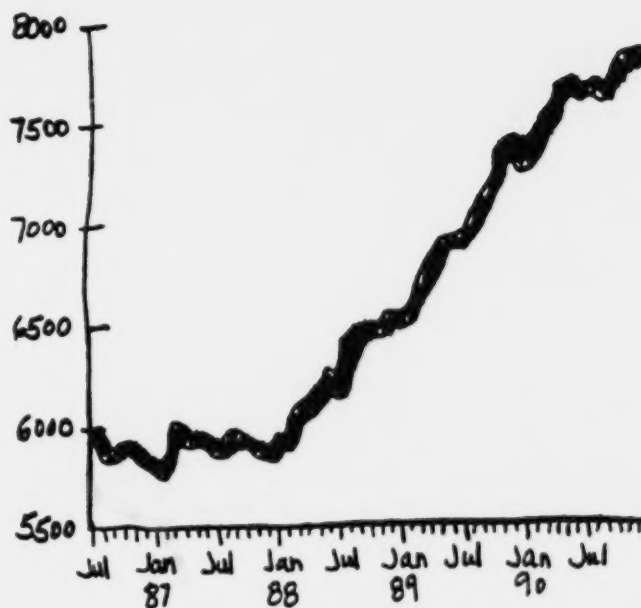
A system of child care.

- Children are often placed in foster care because their parents don't know how to care for them, resulting in abuse or neglect.

- The number of foster children has been increasing at a faster rate than the pool of foster parents.

- Some children are victims of foster care drift – moving from home to home. This makes it difficult for them to bond with and trust their foster parents.

- In one year, the foster care population increased 14%. It is expected to continue its increase through the next year at an estimated rate of 10%.



Approximately 6,000 children were removed from their homes in 1987, Today the level is almost 8,000.

Child Welfare

- To provide safe and loving homes for Missouri's foster children, we need to find more new foster parents and retain the ones we have.
- Over time, programs like Family Preservation should reduce the number of children entering foster care.



As hoped,
most children who enter
foster care eventually
return home.

Sources:

Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
Missouri Department of Social Services, Research and Evaluation.

Child Welfare

Family Preservation Services (FPS)

Intensive, home based, short term crisis intervention aimed at strengthening and keeping families together.

- The primary focus of FPS is to enhance parents' abilities to care for their children by teaching problem-solving, communication, and parenting skills.

- FPS are offered when there is imminent risk that a child will have to be removed from a family.

- FPS is a collaborative effort involving the Divisions of Family Services and Youth Services, the Departments of Mental Health and Elementary and Secondary Education, and Citizens for Missouri's Children.

- FPS is appropriate for up to one-third of all children entering out-of-home care. Parents must agree to work with the specialist assigned to their family.

- A specialist works closely with a family for up to six weeks, and may spend 15-20 hours each week with the family during this time.

- In 1988, FPS began with projects in three counties. It will serve 32 counties by the end of FY-91.

- FPS should be available on a statewide basis by the end of 1993.



Approximately
415 families will be
served with FPS
projects through
Division of
Family Services by
the end of
June, 1991.

Child Welfare

*Adoption:
Every child deserves a family.*

- Efforts started in the 1970s and 1980s have resulted in the adoption of children previously considered unadoptable.

- This caused the percent of adopted children with a handicapping condition to rise from 5% to 39% between 1978 and 1989.

- Children spend an average of just over three years in alternative care prior to adoption.

- The proportion of adoptive placements which are subsidized rose from 40% in 1982 to 77% in 1989. Adoption subsidies make it possible for families to adopt children with special needs.

- Fewer infants are being made available for adoption, causing the average age of children adopted to increase. Termination of parental rights, which may take years, also delays adoptions.



The number of children from ethnic minorities who were adopted increased from 18% in 1982 to 24% in 1989.

Source:

Missouri Department of Social Services. 1990. *Progress for Children: Division of Family Services Adoptions, 1982-1988.*
Prepared by Lorraine Brooks in cooperation with the Division of Family Services.



Children's Health Care

A child's health care should begin before birth and continue for a lifetime.

Children's Health Care

Teen Pregnancy

The leading medical conditions for teenagers (other than colds or flu) are pregnancy and gonorrhea.

- In 1989, nearly 700 children were born to mothers under 16.
- Sixteen percent of the girls in Missouri become pregnant before they graduate from high school.
- At least half the boys and 40% of the girls age 15 to 17 are sexually active.
- More than 6,000 Missouri teenagers contract gonorrhea each year. The incidence of reported cases has increased for the last three years.

Teenagers now account
for 35%
of all out-of-wedlock births.



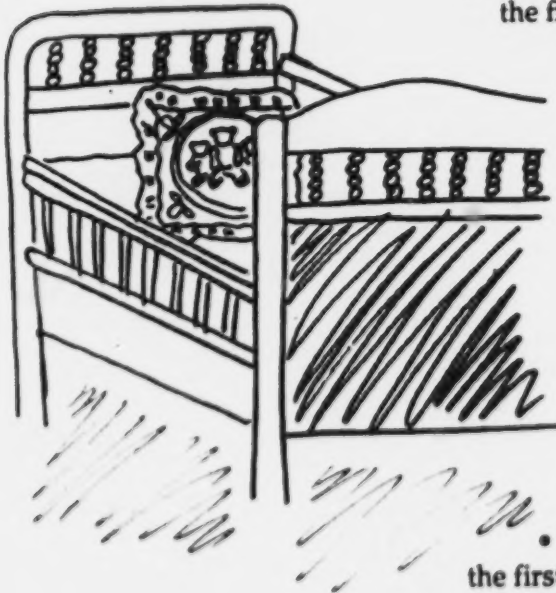
Source:
Missouri Department of Health.

Children's Health Care

Infant Mortality

Low birthweight is still the leading cause

- In 1989, there were nearly 78,000 babies born in Missouri. Of those, 5,400 weighed less than five and a half pounds. Almost 800 infants died within the first year of life.



• Causes of low birthweight include:

Poverty
Cigarette smoking
Lack of prenatal care
Pre-pregnancy weight
under 100 pounds
Medical problems
Youth
Prior fetal death
Alcohol and drug use

- The chance of a low birthweight baby surviving the first year of life is nearly 25% better in 1990 than a decade ago. This is largely due to advances in medical technology.

- However, the problem of low birthweight babies continues, and it has not improved since 1977.

Low birthweight is the most significant indicator of increased risk for developmental problems and death.

Source:
Missouri Department of Health.

Children's Health Care

Prenatal Care

In 1990, more than one sixth children were born to mothers with inadequate prenatal care.

- Ten years ago, 80% of the counties in Missouri did not have public prenatal clinics. Today 68% are served by prenatal clinics.

- The cost to provide adequate prenatal care in 1990 was \$450 per infant, compared to \$300 in 1980.

- The cost to provide intensive neonatal medical care is \$30,000 per infant.

- Costs associated with services for developmental disabilities can exceed \$400,000 over a lifetime.



Children's Health Care

Medicaid:

Providing health care for families that cannot afford it.



Medicaid pays
for 30% of the
babies born in
Missouri.

- As of July 1990, almost half the people eligible for Medicaid in Missouri were children.
- Twelve percent of the people under 18 years old in Missouri are eligible for Medicaid.
- The Medicaid program has recently expanded eligibility for pregnant women and children. Guidelines include:
 - increasing the income level for Medicaid eligibility from 100% of the poverty level to 133% (for a family of three, this raises the income guideline from \$10,560 to \$14,045);
 - annually increasing the age for children's eligibility; and
 - continuous eligibility for pregnant women.
- Expansion helped an additional 39,000 cases in the past three years. By 2002, the cost of this expansion is estimated to be \$31 million, with \$12 million coming from state funds.
- Average monthly expenditures for Medicaid have increased almost 20% during the last year, and 110% over the last decade.
- The major cost driver is babies with low birthweights or who are drug-damaged and need to be kept alive by medical technology.

Sources:

Annual Report. Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services. Fiscal Years 1981 and 1990.

Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Medical Services.
Missouri Department of Social Services, Research and Evaluation.

Children's Health Care

Immunization Prevention is a must for every child.

- With the growing number of children in preschool and daycare programs, an outbreak of measles can quickly become an epidemic.
- Nearly all school-age children in Missouri have been immunized against polio, diphtheria, measles and rubella.
- Polio and diphtheria — once major childhood diseases — have been virtually eradicated in Missouri.
- Once thought to be on the verge of eradication, measles cases have made a dramatic resurgence.



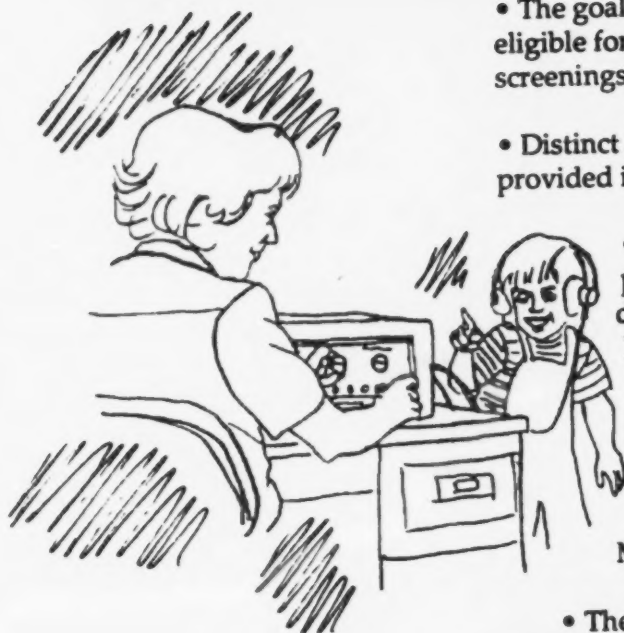
44

Source:
Missouri Department of Health.

Children's Health Care

EPSDT

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment:
Ensuring that children get the medical attention they need.



Healthy
Children
and Youth

- The goal of EPSDT is to ensure that every child eligible for Medicaid receives early and periodic health screenings for physical and mental defects.
- Distinct vision, hearing, and dental screens must be provided in addition to medical examinations.
- EPSDT emphasizes comprehensive primary care and prevention – problems are discovered at an earlier age when children have comprehensive health screening.
- Treatment for any problems discovered during a screening is mandatory.
- Of school age children eligible for Medicaid, 11% will require special services.
- The state is required to screen up to 80% of all eligible children by April 1995.
- Thirty-seven percent of the eligible children are being screened.

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Sources:

1990. Healthy Children and Youth Program. A Summary of the EPSDT Task Force.

Annual Report. Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services. Fiscal Years 1981 and 1990.

Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Medical Services.

Children's Health Care

- Of all households below 150% of poverty, over 40% had children.
- 43% of these households with children had at least one uninsured member in the past year.
- In 1980, there were 159,000 children under age 21 on Medicaid, 39% of them under age 6.
- In 1990, 46% of the children on Medicaid were under age 6.



Sources:
Missouri Indigent Health Care Study, completed by Health Systems Research,
Inc., with assistance from Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.,
April 1986.
Missouri Department of Health.

Children's Health Care

Life Expectancy and Genetic Screening:
Services give hope for longer, healthier lives.

Life expectancy for children born in Missouri:

1980-76 years

1990-75 years

Life expectancy for their parents:

1980-65 years

1990-70 years

Life expectancy for their grandparents:

1980-51 years

1990-60 years



- In 1981, the Department of Health established a partnership with the state's four medical schools creating the Missouri Genetic Disease Program to ensure that genetic services were available to all residents in Missouri. Using both state and federal funding, five genetic tertiary centers and seven genetic outreach clinics were established throughout the state.

Source:
Missouri Department of Health.



~~~~~ Mental Health  
Helping families help themselves.

# Mental Health

## Teen Suicide:

For every adolescent suicide there are an estimated 80 to 150 attempts at suicide.

- Suicide is the fourth-leading cause of death in Missouri among 5 to 14-year-olds and the third leading cause among 15 to 24-year-olds.

- Most adolescent suicides are characterized by a combination of long-standing problems and the impact of a precipitating event.

- Precipitating events may include:  
Problems with family relationships;  
Boyfriend-girlfriend relationships;  
Other peer relationship problems; and  
School problems.

- Teenagers who exhibit signs of depression are at increased risk of suicide.

- Studies indicate that as many as 50% of the suicide victims had abused substances or that alcohol and/or drug abuse had been a family problem.

Missouri Resident Suicides by Year: 1980-1989  
for Selected Age Groups \*

|      | 10-14 | 15-19 | 20-24 |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1980 | 7     | 43    | 72    |
| 1981 | 2     | 31    | 69    |
| 1982 | 1     | 34    | 65    |
| 1983 | 9     | 27    | 76    |
| 1984 | 8     | 43    | 64    |
| 1985 | 6     | 43    | 74    |
| 1986 | 5     | 41    | 71    |
| 1987 | 6     | 58    | 72    |
| 1988 | 4     | 49    | 57    |
| 1989 | 10    | 41    | 61    |

\*No suicides reported for children under age 10.

If a teenager has had a family member or friend commit suicide, he is at an increased risk himself.

### Sources:

Missouri Department of Health.

Missouri Department of Mental Health. Report to Children's Services  
Commission Regarding Teenage Suicide.

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# Mental Health

## CASSP and the 503 Project: Programs for the future.

- Treatment services for children and adolescents with severe emotional disturbances are hampered by an inadequate link between child-care agencies.

- The Departments of Mental Health, Social Services, and Elementary and Secondary Education have jointly established CASSP: Child and Adolescent Service System Project.



- CASSP is designed to provide severe emotionally disturbed children and their families with services that are child-centered and community-based.

- The aim of The 503 Project is to provide services that will enable children with severe emotional disturbance to:

- Remain with their families;
- Attend school; and
- Participate in community life.

No one agency has  
the ability and  
resources to  
adequately serve  
children with severe  
emotional  
problems.

Source:  
Missouri Department of Mental Health.

# Mental Health

*Treating emotionally disturbed children:  
Children grow best in families, schools and communities.*

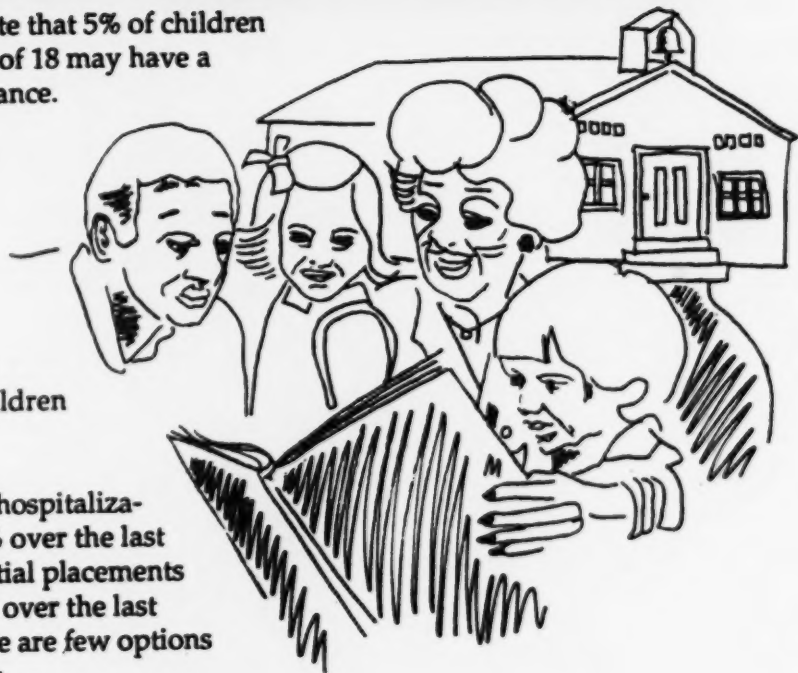
- National studies indicate that 5% of children and youth under the age of 18 may have a severe emotional disturbance.

- In Missouri, approximately 15,000 children may need state provided mental health services.

- Mental health services need to be brought to children in their communities.

- Children's psychiatric hospitalizations have grown by 40% over the last seven years, and residential placements have more than doubled over the last seven years because there are few options available in communities.

- No one agency has the ability and resources to adequately serve children with severe emotional problems.



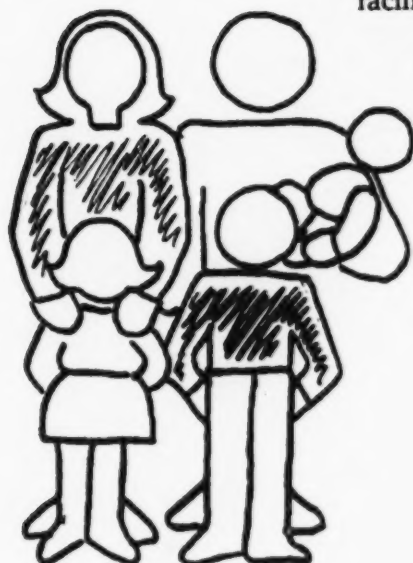
*Bringing treatment to the child,  
instead of bringing the child to treatment.*

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# Mental Health

- "Families First" helps to keep kids in a family-like setting, in school and in the community.
- Three out of four children served through the Families First program were still in the home a year following their participation in the program.
- Therapeutic Foster Care allows emotionally disturbed kids to live in a family setting instead of a facility.
- Day Treatment programs in cooperation with local schools provide a day-time program that includes both treatment and education.



Families are first  
and foremost.

#### Sources:

Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services.

"Where's My Home: A Study of Missouri's Children in Out-Of-Home Placement" by Citizens For Missouri's Children.

# Mental Health

*Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities:  
Parents are the most important resource in the life  
of a child with special needs.*

- 26,000 children in Missouri have mental retardation.
- 10,000 children have other severe developmental disabilities, which cause substantial functional limitations in their life.
- In fiscal year 1990 the Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities provided community residential services to 426 children with developmental disabilities through foster homes, group homes and residential centers.
- There is a waiting list of families which have children with disabilities who need community services and financial assistance to maintain normal lifestyles at home.
- Autism is a severely incapacitating, lifelong developmental disability that can affect a person's ability to learn, communicate and socialize.



*The best way to help infants and children  
with developmental disabilities  
is to support their families as they  
maintain their children at home.*

# Mental Health

- The Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities has begun a pilot autism project that will serve 30 to 50 families during fiscal year 1991.
- Families of persons with disabilities should be able to help choose the services they need and the agencies or individuals which provide those services.
- It has been proven that early intervention services for infants and young children with developmental disabilities pay off with long-term gains.
- The Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities participates in Project First Steps, an interagency program which serves infants and toddlers with developmental delays.
- Approximately 850 infants and toddlers statewide currently receive services under Project First Steps.

Services should be provided in ways that are flexible, easily accessible and individually tailored to the family's needs.

Source:  
Missouri Department of Mental Health.



# Education

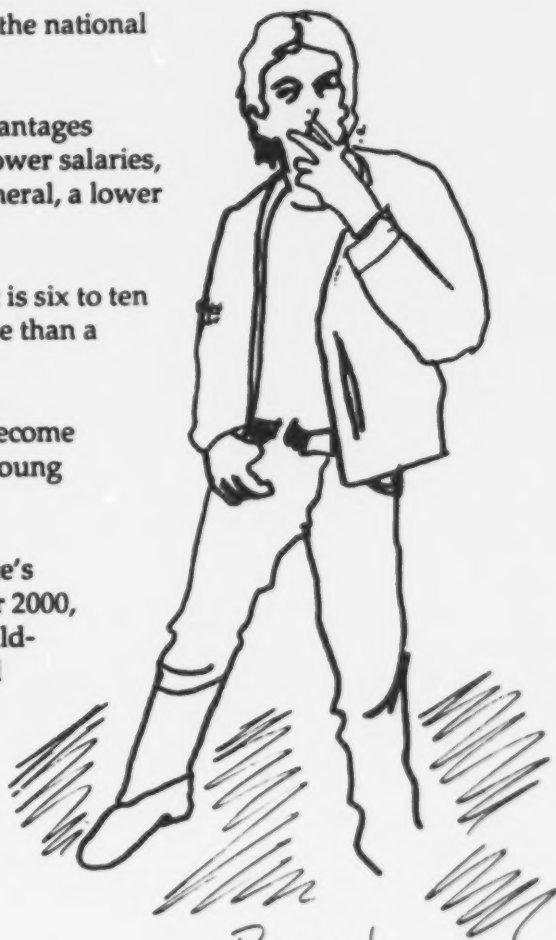
A debt due from present  
to future generations.

# Education

*Literacy*

*In the future, literacy means much more than reading and writing.*

- About one quarter of Missouri students who enter high school don't graduate four years later.
- Missouri's dropout rate corresponds to the national average of 25%.
- Many high school dropouts face disadvantages throughout their lives: unemployment, lower salaries, job dissatisfaction, poor health, and in general, a lower quality of life.
- According to police statistics, a dropout is six to ten times more likely to be involved in a crime than a student who remains in school.
- More than 15,000 Missouri teen-agers become pregnant each year. About 40% of these young women can be expected to drop out.
- To achieve its goal of increasing the state's graduation rate to at least 90% by the year 2000, Missourians must have access to early childhood and parent education programs and other preventive measures.
- Missouri school districts can establish alternative programs and classes for all youth in danger of leaving school. Vocational school outreach programs can be expanded.

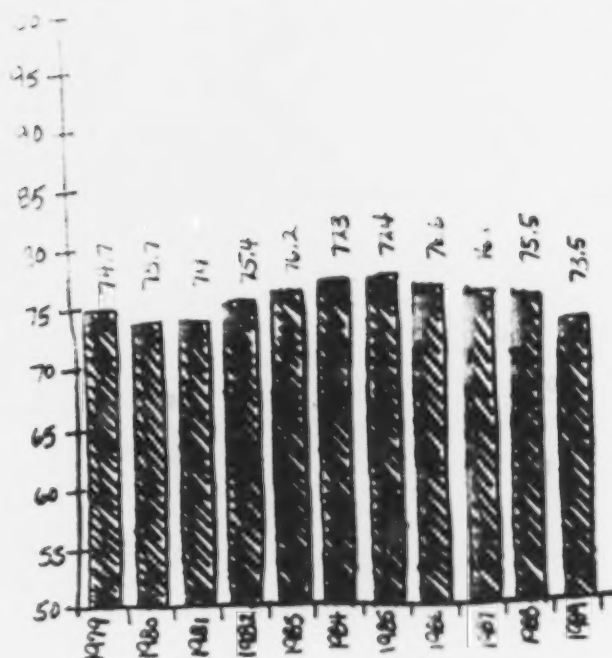


Be cool,  
stay in school!

# Education

- Teachers should be trained to understand the characteristics of at-risk youth and be prepared to identify and work with such students at all ages.

Graduation Rate in Missouri High Schools  
1979 - 1989



About  
85% of state  
prison  
inmates  
are dropouts.

Sources:

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Missouri State Board of Education, *Missourians Prepared—Success for Every Student*. 1990.

# Education

## Dropouts:

*School dropouts are a national problem and an added cost to society.*

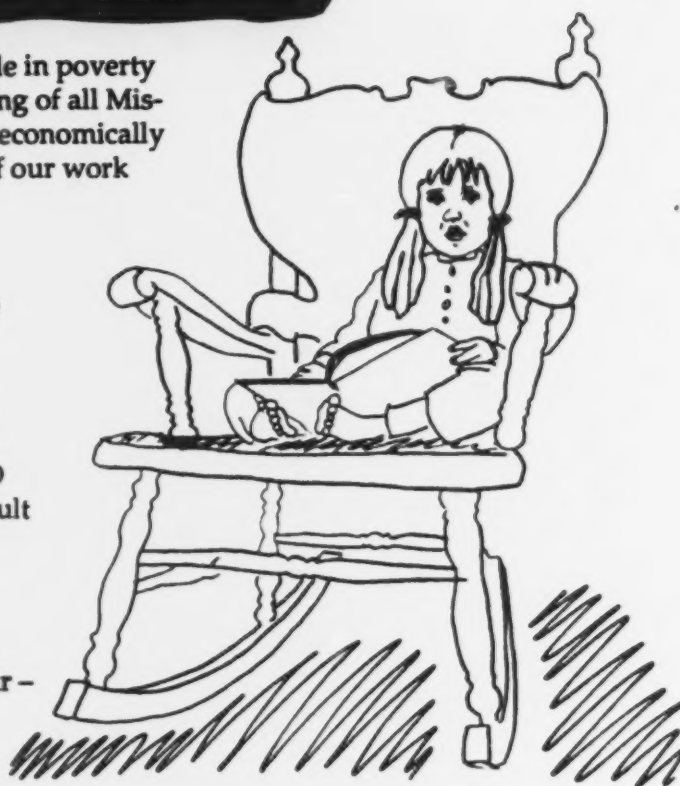
- Functional illiteracy traps people in poverty and affects the economic well-being of all Missourians. Our ability to compete economically is directly related to the quality of our work force.

- An estimated 365,000 adult Missourians, or nearly 11% of the adult population, are illiterate.

- Nearly 15% of those who complete their high school education each year do so by earning a GED certificate through Missouri's Adult Basic Education (ABE) program.

- At the current funding level, Missouri's ABE program serves more than 30,000 people each year – only 3% of the eligible population.

- Literacy is not an isolated product of the formal education system. Health, family life and social attitudes affect language acquisition, especially among very young children.



"Please, teach me to read!"

# Education

- Increasing access to the ABE program and encouraging the work of volunteer organizations will help break the cycle of illiteracy.
- Learnfare, part of Missouri's welfare reform program, helps people receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children become literate with ABE and GED programs.
- Missouri educators and employers must work together to ensure our high school curriculum provides students with the skills they will need in tomorrow's job market.

Too many  
children  
are growing up  
without  
mastering the  
basic skills they  
will need to live  
and work in the  
21st century.

Sources:

Governor's Advisory Council on Literacy, *Jobs Without People*, 1989.  
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.  
Missouri Department of Social Services.

# Education

## Early Childhood Education:

*The best way to solve a child's problems in school is to prevent them.*

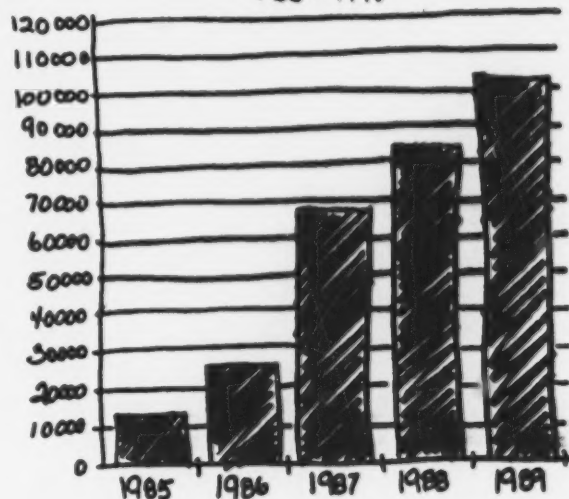
- Parents are a child's first and most influential teachers – they should have access to practical information and support.

- Programs like Missouri's Parents as Teachers (PAT) help maximize children's overall development during their first three years of life and minimize developmental problems that might interfere with learning.

- During the 1989-90 school year, more than 1,500 specially trained PAT parent educators served 100,684 Missouri families and screened 108,608 preschoolers. More than 40,000 potential problems in such areas as vision, hearing and physical development were detected through the screening program.

- All families who wish to participate need to have access to the Parents as Teachers program.

Missouri Families Served by  
Parent Education Programs  
1985 - 1990



Early intervention programs can reduce a child's need for special education services in school.

# Education

- In 1991, Missouri will begin to provide comprehensive services for 3 and 4 year-olds with handicaps or developmental delays.
- First Steps, a federally funded interagency program, provides family-centered, community-based assistance for handicapped infants and toddlers.

Parents are a  
child's first  
teachers.



Sources:  
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.  
Missouri State Board of Education, *Missourians Prepared—Success for Every*

# Education

## Student Achievement:

*Are our Children ready for the challenge of the 21st Century?*

- While Missouri students have made significant academic progress over the past three years, they will have to do better to be productive in tomorrow's society.

- The Missouri Mastery and Achievement Tests show that students are doing best in reading/English and social studies/civics. However, students at all grade levels have trouble with writing.

- Students master fewer key skills in math and are particularly weak in science, although they have made the most progress in this area since the state testing program began in 1987.

- Missouri schools can revise traditional curriculum and instructional practices to assure success for every student. Implementation of the Missouri School Improvement Program, the state's new outcome-based classification and accreditation program, is a major step in that direction.

- Missouri students scored 20.9—slightly above the national average—on the ACT in 1989-90.

- Missouri parents should be active participants in their children's education.



We can make more time for learning by making better use of the school day, expanding summer programs and extending the school year.

### Sources:

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.  
Missouri State Board of Education, *Missourians Prepared—Success for Every Student*, 1990.

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# Education

*Student Diversity:  
All the children of the world.*

- In 1990, nearly 3,800 students with more than 60 different linguistic and cultural backgrounds were enrolled in Missouri public schools.



*A growing  
number of  
Missouri's  
schoolchildren  
are immigrants.*

- Some children come to this country with excellent academic backgrounds. Others have lived in refugee camps or in the midst of civil war; although they have had extraordinary experiences, they may have had little schooling.
- Arriving students take from one to three years to learn "social" English and from five to seven years to learn the "academic" English necessary to compete successfully in our schools.
- Missouri schools can respond to the special needs of immigrant students.
- Missouri's Incentives for School Excellence grants have enabled some districts to design programs that prepare these young people to participate in our society and help all students understand the interdependent nature of the world in which they live.
- A federal program administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education assists school districts with cross-cultural communication, administration of programs for "second-language" students, and implementation of effective teaching strategies for diverse student populations.

Sources:

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.



# Juvenile Justice

Providing protection, guidance,  
and care of our youth.

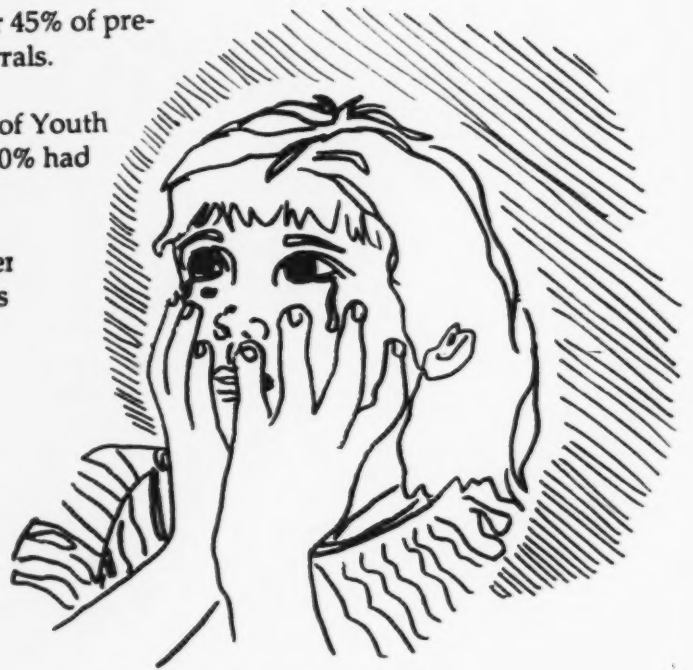
# Juvenile Justice

## Child Abuse and Neglect:

Court referrals for abuse and neglect of children have almost doubled in the past 10 years.

- In 1989, 12,138 referrals were made for abuse and neglect, compared with 6,099 in 1980.
- Females are referred to the courts for abuse and neglect slightly more often than males.
- In 1989, almost 1,500 referrals were made for incest or other sexual abuse. Three-quarters of these children are female.
- Placement in foster homes accounted for 45% of pre-hearing placements of abuse/neglect referrals.
- Of the youth committed to the Division of Youth Services (DYS) during 3 months of 1990, 20% had prior referrals for abuse and neglect.
- The average age of children initially referred to the juvenile courts for abuse and neglect is 10 years.

Most children committed to DYS custody as a result of abuse and neglect referrals are 5 years old or younger.



### Sources:

1989. Missouri Juvenile Court Statistics Report. Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Youth Services.  
Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Youth Services.

# Juvenile Justice



- The majority of status offenses are for truancy and running away.



- In fiscal year 1989, there were 13,728 referrals for status offenses, compared with 14,991 in 1980.

- Unlike law violation referrals, females represent almost half of all referrals for status offenses.

- Overall, 10% of status offense referrals were detained in fiscal 1989, down from 15% in 1988.

- Over 80% of status offenses are handled informally with no court hearing.

Status offenses are acts that would not be against the law if the person were an adult. These include truancy and running away.

**Most status offenders do not become delinquent.** National data show that only 25% of status offenders committed a delinquent offense within one year.

- Status offenders often come from dysfunctional families and have many serious personal, health, and family problems.

#### Sources:

1989. *Missouri Juvenile Court Statistics Report*. Department of Social Services, Division of Youth Services.

1990. "Status Offenders": A Vision for Tomorrow. Missouri Department of Public Safety, State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, and the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association.

# Juvenile Justice

## Juvenile Court Referrals

The percentage of law and status referrals as a percent of the 0-17 population has been steadily increasing.

- Children are referred to the courts for several reasons: law violations, status offenses, child abuse and neglect, and for adoption and other special proceedings.

- 1980 marked the end of two decades of rising juvenile court referrals. In 1980, 48,000 referrals were made to the juvenile courts for status and law violation offenses.

- During the early 1980's, court referrals declined, but referrals have been increasing again - from 33,239 in 1982 to 50,913 in 1989 (status and law offenses only).

- Over 50% of the referrals to the juvenile court system are for law violations. Stealing is the most frequent law violation.

- Eighty percent of law violation referrals are for boys. Referrals for status offenses are about equally divided between girls and boys.



From 1985-1988, Missouri's juvenile courts experienced a 15% increase in delinquency referrals.

### Sources:

1989. Missouri Juvenile Court Statistics Report. Department of Social Services, Division of Youth Services.

1989. Missouri Division of Youth Services Biennial Report, 1989-1990.

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# Juvenile Justice

During 1989, the Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS) received 917 youth commitments, compared to 704 in 1988. Over the five year period from 1985-1989, the Northwest Region had 68% more commitments, while the Southeast Region experienced a 7% decrease. Over 60% of the youth committed are white. Most are from 14 to 16 years of age. The average length-of-stay for all youth leaving facilities in 1989 was 161 days. In 1989, a total of 1,369 youth were served in DYS facilities. DYS is developing non-residential community-based programming to provide youth with more comprehensive services in a less restrictive setting.



The average annual cost per child at a DYS institution was \$8,163 in 1981. The cost tripled by 1989 to \$24,941.

- During 1989, the Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS) received 917 youth, compared to 704 in 1988.
- Over the five year period from 1985-1989, the Northwest Region had 68% more commitments, while the Southeast Region experienced a 7% decrease.
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Sources:  
Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Youth Services.  
1989. Missouri Division of Youth Services Biennial Report, 1989-1990.

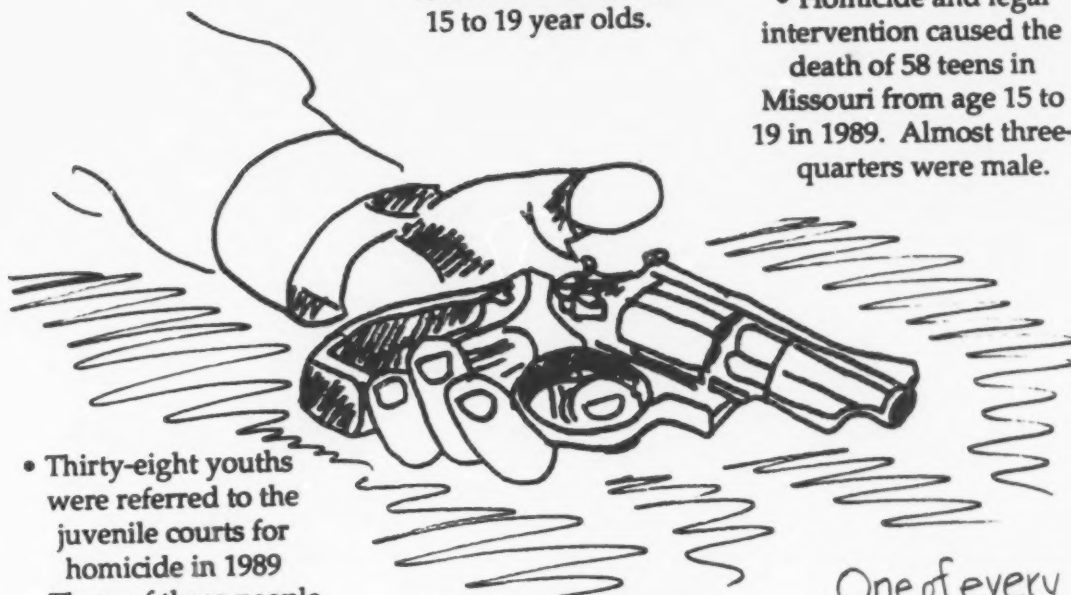
# Juvenile Justice

## Youth Homicide

Only accidents claim more lives of children aged 10-19.

- Homicides and legal intervention represent 15% of the deaths of 15 to 19 year olds.

- Homicide and legal intervention caused the death of 58 teens in Missouri from age 15 to 19 in 1989. Almost three-quarters were male.



- Thirty-eight youths were referred to the juvenile courts for homicide in 1989. Three of these people were under 15 years old.

- Half of the juvenile court referrals for homicide were certified for trial in an adult court.

One of every 13 black males in St. Louis who was 15 years old in 1984 will be murdered by the time he is 45, if current rates continue.

### Sources:

1989. Missouri Juvenile Court Statistics Report. Department of Social Services, Division of Youth Services.

1989. Missouri Monthly Vital Statistics, Volume 23 Number 4. Missouri Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics.

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# Juvenile Justice

## Community-Based Services:

*Treating youth in the least restrictive environment.*

- The Division of Youth Services (DYS) has recently developed non-residential services targeted at youth who are at low risk of repeating their crimes.

- The services include day treatment, intensive case monitoring, proctor care and family preservation.



- Day treatment includes academic and vocational education as well as counseling during the school day.

- Intensive case monitoring is conducted by private providers who are trained by DYS.

- Proctor care is provided for youth with unsafe home environments for whom residential care is not necessary or desirable.

- These services allow a young person to remain in his community, providing more stability than moving him to a residential facility.

- DYS estimates that 210 youth could be served annually if these services are established statewide.

Currently,  
40% of all committed  
youth are considered  
at low risk for  
reoffending.

### Sources:

Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Youth Services.

1989. Missouri Division of Youth Services Biennial Report, 1989-1990.

1989. Missouri Division of Youth Services Annual Report 1989. Statistical Supplement.



# Child Safety

The majority of accidental deaths  
and injuries are preventable.

# Child Safety

## Home accidents

More children under five die in home accidents than auto accidents.

- Leading agents in accidental poisoning for children under five are: cosmetics, cleaning solutions, analgesics, cold/cough preparations, and plants.

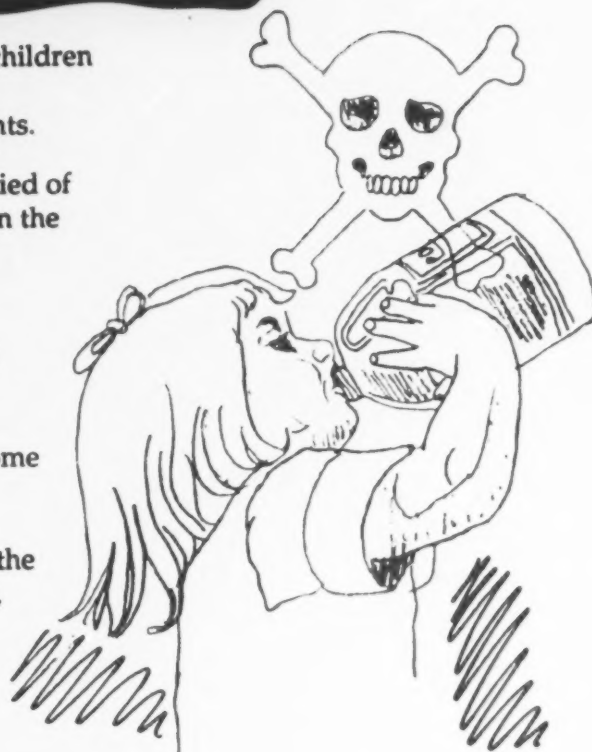
- In 1989, 90 children from birth to age four died of accidents. Over half of these accidents were in the home.

- Home accidents also cause a significant number of deaths of 5-14 year olds, taking 33 lives in 1989.

- Fires causes about half the deaths due to home accidents.

- For children under five, suffocation causes the second largest number of deaths in the home, followed by drowning.

- Recognition of hazards is the key to preventing accidental deaths in the home.



## Five leading causes of death

| Ages 1-4                     | 1980 | 1989 |
|------------------------------|------|------|
| Accidental deaths            | 68   | 64   |
| Birth defects                | 21   | 26   |
| Homicide, legal intervention | 18   | 17   |
| Cancer                       | 14   | 13   |
| Pneumonia and influenza      | 11   | 5    |

Source:

Missouri Department of Health.

1989. Missouri Vital Statistics. Missouri Department of Health,

Division of Health Resources, State Center for Health Statistics.

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# Child Safety

## Motor Vehicle Accidents:

The number one cause of death for teens aged 15 to 19.

- In Missouri, 6.5% of all licensed drivers are under the age of 21. These drivers were involved in 31% of all 1989 Missouri traffic accidents. Young driver accidents caused 271 deaths and 22,700 injuries.



- 332 teenagers between the ages of 15 to 19 died during 1988. Motor vehicle accidents caused 41% of these deaths. Only 44% of the drivers aged 15 and under, and 68% of the 16-20 year olds, wore seat belts.

## Drinking and driving don't mix.



- Thirty-one percent of all 1989 Missouri traffic accidents, and 25% of all fatal accidents involved young drivers.
- Drinking was involved in 21% of the fatal accidents involving young drivers.
- While 65% of traffic accidents involving young drivers happened in urban areas, 75% of the fatal accidents were in rural areas.

Nationwide,  
127 children died and  
1,000 were injured  
while riding in the  
back of pick-up trucks  
in one year.

### Sources:

Missouri Vital Statistics. 1980-1988. Missouri Department of Health, Division of Health Resources, State Center for Health Statistics.  
Missouri Department of Public Safety, Division of Highway Safety.  
Missouri Department of Revenue, Driver's License Bureau.

# Child Safety

## Car Seats

Missouri's second decade of reducing child fatalities and injuries from motor vehicle crashes.

- Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death and the leading cause of injury for children of all ages.

- During 1981-1983, an average of 1,171 children under the age of four were killed and injured in traffic crashes each year in Missouri.

- The Missouri Division of Highway Safety joined hundreds of organizations throughout the state in initiating a loan-a-seat program in every county between 1983 and 1988.

- Child car seat usage in Missouri has increased from less than 10% in 1980 to the current level of more than 60%.

- Child car seats are more than 70% effective in protecting children from death and injury in a car crash.

- In the first five years after the car seat law went into effect in 1984, child fatalities and injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes for children under the age of four have decreased by 12.5%.



Using child  
car seats.  
in Missouri  
is the law.

Source:  
Missouri Department of Public Safety, Division of Highway Safety.

# Child Safety

McGruff

Helping kids stand up to peer pressure.

- The Division of Youth Services (DYS) McGruff program is aimed at helping children resist peer pressure to commit a law violation or status offense.
- The McGruff program helps children feel good about themselves, their families, and their communities.
- The DYS program started in 1985 when 25 programs were presented to 904 participants.
- In 1990, DYS presented 425 educational programs to over 24,000 children.
- During 1990, McGruff attended 30 promotional programs such as activities fairs and parades. It is estimated that these programs reached over 300,000 participants.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
CRIME™

Source:

Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Youth Services.



## Child Care

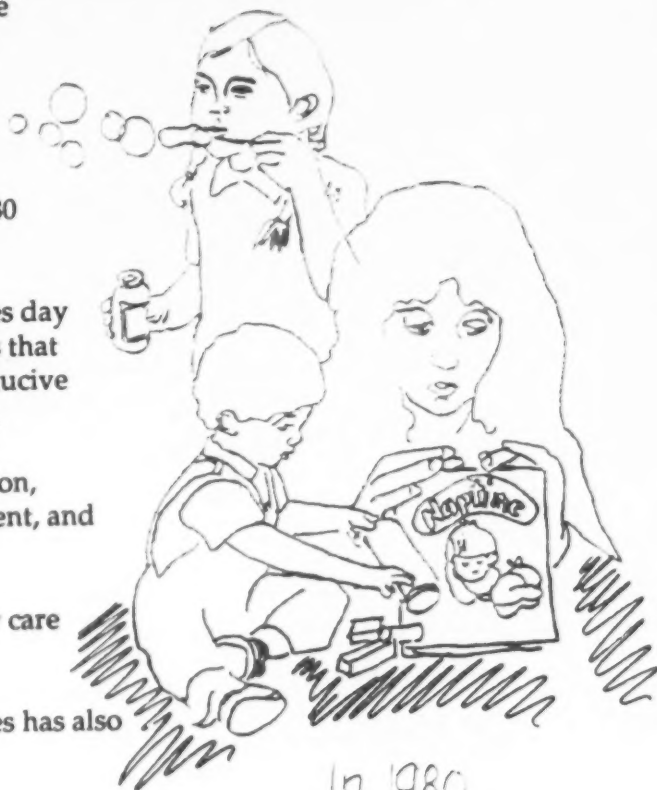
Child care must be much more  
than just a place for children to go.

# Child Care

## Licensed Day Care

Assuring safe and proper care for Missouri's children.

- The number of mothers returning to the workforce and the number of children requiring day care is rapidly growing.
- The total capacity of licensed child care settings has increased dramatically over the last ten years, from 35,000 in 1980 to 82,000 in 1990.
- The Division of Family Services licenses day care centers and homes to assure parents that their child is in a safe environment, conducive to wholesome growth and development.
- Licensing requirements include nutrition, staff/child ratio, physical plant, equipment, and health and safety standards.
- Since 1980, the number of licensed day care centers has doubled from 502 to 1,020.
- The number of licensed day care homes has also increased twofold - from 980 to 2,106.



In 1980,  
42% of the  
women in  
Missouri's  
labor force  
had children.

### Sources:

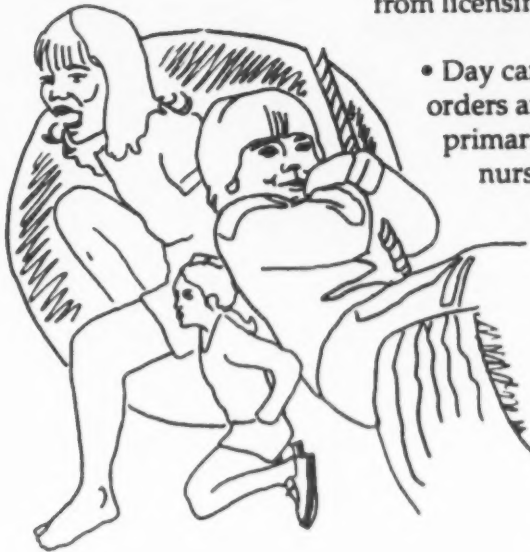
Annual Report. Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services. Fiscal Years 1980-1990.  
1980. Census of the Population. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

# Child Care

## Unlicensed Day Care

It is very difficult to determine how much unlicensed care exists.

- Many day care providers in Missouri are not required to be licensed, or may apply for an exemption from licensing.



- Day care centers run by well-known religious orders are not required to be licensed. Centers primarily run for educational purposes, such as nursery schools and school district programs, are also exempted.

- The remaining exempt facilities were run by businesses and city or county governments, or were primarily medical or recreational in nature.

- The Missouri Child Care Safety Coalition estimates that 72,000 children in Missouri attend unlicensed facilities, 53% of these in religious facilities.

Care provided by relatives does not require a license, and is a major source of day care in Missouri.

**BEST COPY AVAILABLE**

#### Sources:

Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services, Day Care Licensing Unit.

1991. University of Missouri-Columbia, Office of Public Policy Resources. MU Public Policy Newsletter. January 1991.

# Child Care

## Before and After School Care

Children left alone are at risk of physical and emotional trauma.

- Missouri schools can become one-stop centers for education, child care and other family-support services.
- School-age child care provides supervision for children between the ages of 5 and 14 before and after school, on snow days and school holidays, and during school vacations.
- School-age child care programs assist many families that normally could not afford out-of-home child care.
- "Latchkey children" are more likely to turn to antisocial behavior or to be exploited by other children or adults.
- There is a growing demand for coordinated services that promote the well-being of students: education, health and school-based child care.
- Some school districts are teaming up with organizations like the YMCA or PTA to offer quality programs at minimal cost.



81 of Missouri's 543 public school districts provide a school-age child care program.

Source:  
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.



~~~~~ A Call To Action

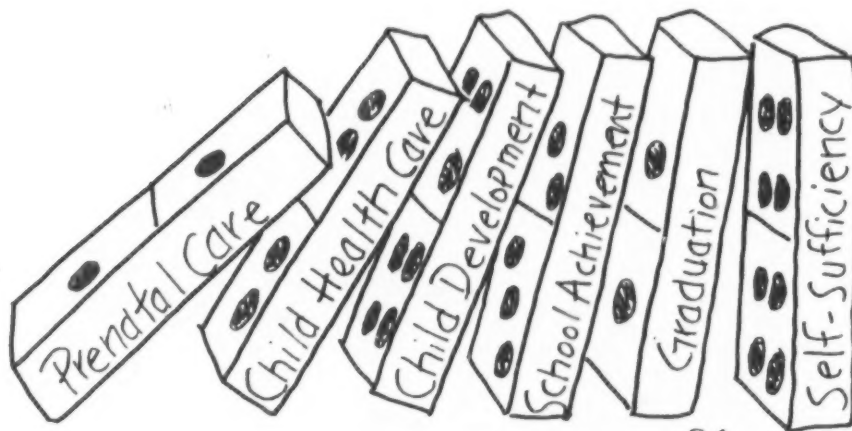
A Call To Action

Our children are our future. We can't afford to throw them away.

Too many of Missouri's children don't get off to the right start. Poor health care has a domino effect, causing problems in physical and mental development for children that later may cause problems in school. Good health care begins before birth and continues throughout life. Children must learn how to live and maintain healthy lifestyles. Specific goals for improving health care for Missouri's children can include:

Missouri's children must be healthy to prepare them for the future.

- making prenatal care available to all pregnant women;
- insuring that all of Missouri's mothers and children eat correctly;
- insuring that all children receive immunizations;
- insuring that every child in Missouri gets periodic health screenings;
- teaching responsible behavior; and
- providing education related to human sexuality to prevent non-marital pregnancies.



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A Call To Action

Missouri's children
need to be
well educated
to live and work in
tomorrow's world.

Too many of Missouri's children never graduate from high school or learn sufficient skills. These kids are much more likely to live in poverty, making it difficult to provide for their own children. We can't afford to squander our future this way. Parents and schools must be full partners to prepare our children for the future. Together, we can:

- get parents involved in education early by expanding the Parents As Teachers program;
- provide children with safe places to go after school instead of letting them go home to empty houses - recycle wasted time into other activities;
- identify children with school problems early, while there is still time to make a difference;
- help children raise their own expectations instead of just getting by; and
- show kids that they need to aspire, work hard and have a vision.

Every child in
Missouri should
have a Family.

Families should provide children with love and give them a safe place to live. Families often need help doing this. We need to create an environment which helps protect and preserve families. This means Missouri's families must have access to:

- training and education to improve their economic well-being;
- quality child care;
- quality health care;
- special services to help keep families together and keep children at home; and
- special help for children with special needs, such as early screening and diagnosis.

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